Procurement of paddy in the country

910. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of procurement of paddy in the country in the last three years, giving details groupwise;

(b) whether Government are aware of the allegations of corruption for fixing the rates from procurement of paddy to the acceptance of levy rice and custom milling by rice millers:

(c) whether Government are aware that Food Corporation of India and Food and Civil Supplies Department of Punjab are actively involved in these alleged deals of corruption:

(d) whether government are also aware of the different rates of bribe fixed at different stages to facilitate the entire process of procurement and storage etc. and the involvement of high officials therein;

(e) whether it is also a fact that crores of money have changed hands in the process of procurement during last year; and

(f) the steps Government have taken to investigate these corrupt deals and the action taken against the officers of the Food Corporation of India and Food and Civil Supplies Department of Punjab and other agencies involved in the deal?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Procurement of paddy (variety-wise) during the last three marketing seasons are as under:—

(In lakhs onnes)

Variety	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (as on 28-2-95)
Common	12.21	8.01	5·61
Fine	4·21	13.60	33.09
Superfine	34.69	44.35	37·16
Basmati	0.05	0 08	0.12
PR-X	..	..	4.98
Break-up	00.36	2.87	3.40
Variety-wise not available	..	..	..
	51.52	68.91	84.36

(b) to (f) Besides the Food Corporation of India, a nubmer of other agencies like the State Food Department, Punjab State Civil Supplies Corporation (Punsup), Punjab State Marketing Federation (Markfed), State Warehousing Corporation and others are engaged in the procurement operations in Punjab